

City and County of
The City of Gloucester



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
CITY AND PORT OF GLOUCESTER.
1923.

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Annual Report for Year 1923.

HEALTH OFFICE,

9, NEW INN LANE,

GLOUCESTER.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MRS. SIVETER AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in putting before you the Annual Report of the work of the Health Department for the year 1923.

As I did not commence my duties in the City until the beginning of September, I am unable to deal fully with the year's work, and my comments must be considered rather as first impressions.

The routine work of the Department was very much disorganised by the special work necessitated by the Smallpox epidemic, but it is hoped that during the current year a more normal condition of affairs will prevail.

Miss E. G. Walker was appointed Matron of the City Hospital, Over, in the place of Miss C. E. Brunt, who resigned.

I am pleased to be able to report a further reduction in the Infant Mortality Rate, which is very satisfactory, in view of the continued extent of unemployment, over-crowding, and the extreme difficulty in dealing with conditions of unsatisfactory housing.

The Infant Welfare Centres were closed for a period during the height of the epidemic, and the attendances on re-opening were considerably reduced. I am pleased to report that the number of attendances is on the increase, and it is hoped that the present year will see a return to the normal.

It will be observed that very little work was done during the year under the Food and Drugs Acts, &c., but at the time of writing this Report the new City Analyst has commenced his work, and regular sampling of foodstuffs, &c., has recommenced.

A report of the work of the Port Sanitary Authority is included, and I would like to point out that no special work has been carried out under the Rat Order. No rat catcher is employed by the Port Sanitary Authority, nor by the Authorities responsible for the Docks, Warehouses and Quays. I have instructed the Port Sanitary Inspector to obtain, if possible, materials from ships coming from infected ports, for bacteriological examinations.

I wish to express my thanks to all the members of the staff for assisting me to get a grip of the work in Gloucester, and particularly to Dr. Colquhoun and Mr. Forster, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for their invaluable help.

I have the honour to be,

Mrs. Siveter and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD B. BERRY,

Medical Officer of Health,

City and Port of Gloucester.

30TH JUNE, 1924.

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STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department on 31st December, 1923, was as follows :—

h RONALD B. BERRY, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Port and City of Gloucester, and School Medical Officer.

FLORENCE COLQUHOUN, M.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and Assistant School Medical Officer.

INSPECTORS.

a h J. S. FORSTER, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

a J. W. TIBBITTS, Sanitary Inspector.

a b d h E. UPHAM, Sanitary Inspector (City and Port).

CAPT. BRINKWORTH, Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector. (Part time).

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

c e f i MISS M. PALMER, Superintendent of Infant Welfare Centres.

c e f g i MISS G. A. HEWER, Health Visitor.

c e f i MISS M. A. NEALE, Health Visitor.

e f i MISS M. R. WILLIAMS, Health Visitor.

c e f i MISS H. S. MACDONALD, Assistant Nurse at Infant Welfare Centres. (Part time).

CLERICAL STAFF.

Three full time Clerks.

In addition there is one Disinfector.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

LAUNCELOT MACHIN, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG., School Dental Surgeon.

Consulting Nose and Throat Specialist :—H. SMURTHWAITE, M.D., B.S.

f MISS D. TEARE, School Nurse.

MISS E. A. CHAMBERS, Dental Assistant.

Clerical Staff.—One full time Clerk.

a Cert. Royal San. Institute (Inspector of Nuisances).

b " " " (Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

c " " " (Health Visitor).

d " Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board (London).

e " C.M.B.

f " General Hospital Training.

g " Fever Hospital Training.

h Exchequer contributions are received in respect of salaries of these Officers.

i Infant Welfare contributions are received in respect of salaries of these Officers.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	2318 acres
Estimated Population, 1923	...	...	...	...	52,860
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	11,357
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	...	11,988
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£288,698
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£1,100

II.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Males.	Females.		Gloucester	England and Wales..
Births, Legitimate	1032	545	487	} 1059	Birth-Rate.	
Births, Illegitimate	27	15	12		20.0	... 19.7
					Death-Rate	
Deaths	... 646	318	328		10.3	... 11.6

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth :—

From Sepsis, 1 ... From other causes, 2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Gloucester.	England and Wales.
65.9	222.2	68.9	69.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	12
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	7
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	3

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1923.

Deaths in or belonging to whole District at Subjoined Ages,

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 Years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65—75 years	75 years and upwards
Enteric Fever	2...	—	—	—	—	1...	—	1...	—	—
Smallpox	4...	2...	—	—	1...	—	—	1...	—	—
Measles	12...	1...	7...	4...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4...	—	—	1...	3...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	7...	6...	1...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	4...	—	—	2...	2...	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza... ..	11...	—	—	—	2...	—	2...	4...	1...	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	1...	—	—	—	—	1...	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	49...	—	1...	—	1...	15...	19...	11...	2...	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	15...	—	4...	4...	3...	—	1...	2...	1...	—
Cancer, Malignant Diseases	81...	—	—	—	—	—	6...	31...	22...	22
Rheumatic Fever	2...	—	—	—	—	—	2...	—	—	—
Diabetes	3...	—	—	—	—	—	1...	2...	—	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	51...	—	—	—	—	1...	1...	10...	16...	23
Heart Disease	88...	—	—	—	—	2...	12...	25...	23...	26
Arterio-sclerosis	37...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5...	12...	20
Bronchitis	47...	2...	1...	—	—	1...	3...	5...	13...	22
Pneumonia (all forms)	45...	7...	2...	1...	—	4...	10...	10...	4...	7
Other respiratory Diseases	9...	1...	—	—	1...	1...	—	5...	1...	—
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	1...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1...	—
Diarrhœa, &c.	6...	3...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2...	—	—	—	2...	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	2...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2...	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	22...	—	—	—	1...	1...	2...	6...	6...	6
Puerperal sepsis... ..	1...	—	—	—	—	—	1...	—	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases of										
Pregnancy and Parturition	4...	—	—	—	—	—	4...	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Mal-										
formation, premature Birth	40...	40...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	2...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2...	—	—
Other Deaths from Violence	9...	—	—	1...	—	—	3...	1...	2...	2
Other defined diseases	85...	11...	1...	—	4...	4...	4...	20...	16...	25
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	646	73	17	13	20	31	71	143	120	158

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Disease.				Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	Death- Rate per cent.
Smallpox	...	...	...	687	... 556	... 4	... 0.59
Diphtheria	...	...	...	75	... 66	... 4	... 5.4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	158	... 136	... 4	... 2.5
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	64	... 21	... 2	... 3.1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1	... 1	... —	... —
Pneumonia	...	...	...	62	... 3	... 45	... 72.5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	23	... —	... —	... —
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	... —	... —	... —
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	... —	... —	... —
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1	... —	... —	... —
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	... —	... —	... —
Malaria	...	...	...	—	... —	... —	... —
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	4	... 1	... —	... —
Measles and German Measles	...	...	...	1554	... 39	... 12	... 0.77
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	1027	... 1	... —	... —
Dysentery	...	...	...	—	... —	... —	... —
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	142	... —	... 7	... 4.9
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	(See separate Table)			...

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1923.

	At all Ages	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.													TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.									TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
		At Ages—Years.													TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.										
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and up-wards	West.	Kingsholm	East	Alington	South	Southend	Barton	Lr. Barton	Fredworth	Tufley (E)		Tufley (W)
Smallpox Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	687	16	15	24	19	22	141	182	103	114	16	30	5	112	106	35	52	44	92	70	71	74	16	15	556
Erysipelas ...	23	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	5	9	1	3	2	2	5	3	—	2	4	—	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	158	1	2	4	14	19	62	41	7	7	1	—	—	8	19	4	3	20	29	17	12	30	7	9	136
Enteric Fever ...	64	—	3	2	6	2	7	12	9	11	2	10	—	5	7	11	4	3	5	13	8	8	—	—	21
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	62	4	1	3	1	1	4	4	2	11	13	11	7	11	6	7	6	5	2	10	3	7	5	—	3
Tuberculosis :— Pulmonary ...	47	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	15	10	8	2	6	7	3	4	3	5	7	6	4	1	1	15
Other Forms ...	28	—	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	6	3	2	—	1	2	3	3	7	2	4	2	4	—	—	—
Ophthalmia ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Neonatorum ...	1554	50	92	168	206	213	804	16	3	—	2	—	—	220	209	151	166	128	158	135	105	138	54	90	39
Measles and German Measles ...	1027	23	59	41	51	72	243	193	154	147	26	18	—	138	232	77	89	59	60	65	189	58	33	27	1
Chicken-pox ...	142	20	30	24	31	13	20	2	2	—	—	—	—	22	24	14	12	10	17	16	11	8	4	4	—
Whooping Cough ...																									
TOTALS ...	3873	118	205	272	334	358	1311	472	301	318	79	90	15	533	618	309	353	287	396	344	417	341	121	154	839

SMALLPOX.

The greater portion of the Smallpox epidemic was dealt with in a special report by Drs. Painton and Jameson. The number of cases that occurred since September 1st, 1923, to the end of the year which were not dealt with in the special report is 66.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35
3	3	1	1	4	16	12	5	17
	35-45	45-65	65 upwards.	Total.				
	1	3	—	66				

HOUSE INCIDENCE.

In 18 houses 1 case occurred in each house.

„ 8 „ 2 cases „ „ „

„ 4 „ 3 „ „ „ „

„ 1 house 4 „ „

„ 2 houses 5 cases occurred in each house.

„ 1 house 6 „ „

VACCINATION STATE.

5 cases aged 29, 32, 42, 52 and 53 years were vaccinated in infancy.

1 case aged 61 years was vaccinated 25 years ago.

1 case, aged 23 years, stated that she was vaccinated 5 years ago, but no evidence of satisfactory vaccination could be discovered.

The other cases were unvaccinated.

Of these 66 cases, 63 were admitted to Brockworth Hospital, and in addition, 4 County cases were treated.

HOSPITAL STATE.

Cases remaining in Hospital, 31/8/23	19
Cases admitted from 1/9/23 to 31/12/23 City	63
County	4
	— 67
Cases discharged from 1/9/23 to 31/12/23	82
Cases died „ „ „ „ „ „	1
Cases remaining on 31/12/23	3

94 per cent. of the cases were classed as mild or very mild cases.

6 per cent. of the cases were classed as moderate severity.

Average number of days in Hospital, 14.4.

The death could not be considered as due to Smallpox. When the boy was removed to Hospital his sister was at home suffering from Measles, and a week after admission to Hospital, the boy developed a toxic type of Measles which proved fatal. The type of disease was precisely similar to that dealt with in the special report.

VACCINATION.

I am unable to report how many vaccinations were carried out in Gloucester during the year 1923. It is of interest to know from Dr. Sidney Coupland's report to the Royal Commission on Vaccination, that during the epidemic of 1896, 34,836 vaccinations were carried out in the City of Gloucester, and in addition 1,702 children under 10 years of age were stated to have been vaccinated in infancy, making a total of 35,908.

In addition, 1,979 cases of Smallpox were dealt with in the report so that by the end of the epidemic 37,887 persons out of an estimated population of 40,616 had either had Smallpox or been satisfactorily vaccinated.

I do not propose to enter into the vaccination controversy. So long as the people prefer to remain in an unprotected condition they must be prepared for the re-appearance of the

disease in the City, for the spread of the disease when it does appear (as without vaccination the difficulties of preventing the spread are markedly increased), and for the expenditure of money for the isolation and treatment of cases when they arise. It is to be hoped that if further visitations come about they will be of the same mild type as that of 1923, and not of the severe and fatal form of 1896.

The following extracts from the "British Medical Journal," of February 23rd, 1924, on the report of the Swiss Federal Health Service for 1922 are of interest. The report deals with the Smallpox epidemic which began in Switzerland in the latter half of 1921 and continued throughout 1922.

"Vaccination is compulsory in certain cantons, but in others it is not. Cantons retaining vaccination have not been affected with Smallpox even to the extent of a single case, despite the fact that freedom of communication existed between them and the others where the epidemic was rife. The disease has been of a particularly mild form (only one death is reported, that of an unvaccinated infant), and it was quite common for infected individuals to remain at work or even travel about. The total cost to the country of the epidemic that can actually be calculated from the returns of the cantons (not including the loss to the community of time and labour) amounts to nearly 740,000 Swiss francs (£30,000 about). In the cantons where vaccination is still compulsory the expenses were practically negligible—amounting, for example, in Tessin to only 100 francs."

There are two points of interest I would like to mention with regard to the Smallpox epidemic and the difficulties that arose in the matter of diagnosis:—(1) Several of the children who suffered from Smallpox have since had an attack of Chickenpox, and (2) Material was sent from some of our cases to Dr. Gordon, of the Pathological Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and he reports that the material he received from a very virulent case in the Surrey area in September, re-acted serologically in the same manner as the Gloucester strain.

ENTERIC FEVER.

64 cases of Enteric Fever occurred during the year. One case was notified at the end of March, one early in July, and from the end of August cases were notified regularly, and began to be a cause for serious concern. The infection appeared to be scattered throughout the City, and in very few cases was it possible to find any connecting link.

AGE INCIDENCE.								
Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35
—	3	2	6	2	7	12	9	11
	35-45	45-65	65 upwards.	Total.				
	2	10	—	64				

Where it was obvious that cases could not be satisfactorily nursed at home without danger to other members of the household, removal to hospital was insisted upon.

In only four instances did more than one case arise in a house. In the first no notification was received until the second case occurred ; in the second two boys became ill at the same time ; in the third, the first case was not removed to Hospital, as it was thought that all the necessary precautions could and would be carried out at home. However, a second case occurred two weeks later and there is little doubt that this case was directly infected from the original case in the house. The second case was removed to Hospital and no further case arose.

Two cases occurred in a Hostel and both were removed to a Nursing Home.

Of the 64 cases, 50 were proved by bacteriological tests to be Para-Typhoid B, 2 were cases of Typhoid, and in 12 cases diagnosis was made without a blood test.

The cases on the whole were of a very mild nature, and from enquiries made during the course of the outbreak, it is extremely

likely that many more cases occurred, but were not diagnosed, owing to the extreme mildness and rapid disappearance of the symptoms.

There were two deaths.

Many and varied enquiries were undertaken in an effort to trace the source of infection, but without success. Frequent reports were received of cases occurring in the surrounding country districts and in many of these cases it was found that there was a history of the consumption of an article of confectionery at a restaurant in the City.

This line of investigation was carefully followed up, but nothing was found to prove that the source of infection was at this restaurant.

The following samples were analysed in an effort to trace the source of the trouble :—

Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Milk ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cream from buns	...	...	...	...	...	4
Residue from milk separator				...	...	1
Eggs frozen	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eggs liquid	...	...	...	...	...	1
Excreta	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blood ...	...	...	...	...	...	15

All the samples gave negative results.

MEASLES.

Measles is notifiable in the City.

An epidemic of Measles made its appearance in the City in the month of July. The type of disease was rather severe, and the difficulties of dealing with it were markedly increased

on account of the overcrowding prevalent in many parts of the City, and consequent impossibility of isolation.

The total number of cases during the year was 1,554, and the number of deaths definitely registered as due to Measles 12 (0.77 per cent.), but it is probable that some of the deaths registered as due to Bronchitis or Pneumonia were primarily due to Measles.

It will be noticed from the death returns that all Measles deaths occurred in children up to 5 years old and none after that age. 75 per cent. of the deaths occurred in children under 2 years old. It is now generally accepted that if the incidence of Measles can be postponed until after the age of 5 there is a marked reduction in the death-rate, and also in the amount of invaliding from after-effects. This is strongly supported by the Gloucester figures for 1923.

On receipt of a notification the home is visited by a Health Visitor who advises with regard to isolation and nursing, and leaves a handbill which specially advises calling in a doctor. When home conditions are very bad and the child seriously ill, efforts are made to have the case admitted to the Isolation Hospital. 39 cases were admitted during the year.

Enquiries show that the spread of infection was from house to house. It seems almost impossible to make people realise that Measles is a serious disease. Parents do not appear to appreciate the tremendous risks they allow their children to run when they permit them to come in contact with children suffering from Measles.

After some time it was found advisable to close the Infants' Department of Calton Road School and this closure took effect on the 28th November.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 4 cases of Opthhalmia Neonatorum notified during the year, of which one was admitted to Hospital.

It is satisfactory to report that all cases were cured without permanent damage to the eyes.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

142 cases were notified during the year as follows :—
1st quarter, 85 ; 2nd quarter, 36 ; 3rd quarter, 18 ; 4th quarter, 3.

Seven deaths were registered as due to Whooping Cough.

This disease is also of a more serious character than is generally realised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis work in the City is carried out in association with that of the County, under the control of the Joint Tuberculosis Committee.

The Dispensary is conducted at Barton Street and meets on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

The Sanatorium (Standish House) is provided by the Joint Committee and cases of a suitable nature from the City are sent there. The accommodation at this institution for adults is as follows :—

Men	...	73 (20 of these for advanced cases).
Women	...	26

Also there was accommodation during 1923 for 39 children, but this accommodation is now increased to :—

Boys	...	...	...	...	...	39
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	19
Children under 7	...	...	...	...	...	20 (Cots).

The Alexandra Home which was used for the treatment of children was closed at the end of the year, as further provision was being made at Standish House.

In addition, there are 24 beds for more advanced cases at the City Isolation Hospital, Over.

No definite provision is made for surgical cases ; arrangements have to be made for these to be admitted to different institutions when they arise.

The home visiting of Tuberculosis cases is carried out by nurses from the District Nursing Home who report direct to the Medical Officer of Health.

Standish House.

CITY PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING 1923.

				Insured.		Non-Insured.		Total.
Men	...	...	...	35	...	—	...	35
Women	...	...	...	9	...	1	...	10
Children :—								
Boys	...	...	...	—	...	4	} ...	14
Girls	...	...	...	—	...	10		—
TOTAL	...	...	...	44	...	15	...	59

DISCHARGED DURING 1923.

	Improved.	Arrested.	Not Improved.	Died.	Total.
Men	13	1	7	4	25
Women	2	4	2	—	8
Children	14	—	—	—	14
	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	29	5	9	4	47
	—	—	—	—	—

PATIENT DAYS.

Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
4,752	1,284	448	2,510	8,994
Total patient days (County and City Cases)				42,201

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

	Notifications on Form A.													Notifications on Form C.			Deaths 1923
	Primary Notifications.													Total Notifications on Form A.	Poor Law Institutions.	Sanatoria.	
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 and upwards						
Pulmonary :—	...	—	—	1	—	3	6	1	6	5	1	1	24	—	—	47	27
Males	...	—	—	1	—	3	6	1	6	5	1	1	24	—	—	47	27
Females	...	—	—	1	2	5	5	3	4	1	1	1	23	—	—	33	22
Non-Pulmonary :—																	
Males	...	—	3	2	1	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	9
Females	...	—	4	1	2	1	—	2	2	—	2	—	14	—	—	—	6

Of the 49 Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 9 were not notified until after death.

Of the 15 Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 7 were not notified until after death.

TRANSFERS :—2 men and 1 woman were transferred from Standish House to Hospital.

2 male and 2 female patients left Standish House against advice.

312 patients attended at the City Dispensary during the year of which 159 were new patients.

An approximate total of 1,260 attendances were made.

60 home visits were made by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer during the year.

527 home visits were made by the City Nurse.

City Isolation Hospital, Over.

TUBERCULOSIS PAVILION.

Cases admitted during the year :—

			City Cases.	County and Non-Resident Cases.		Total.
			15	...	36	51
Deaths	...	...	3	...	11	14

CITY ISOLATION HOSPITAL REPORT, 1923.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles.	Chicken pox.	Total.
Remaining in Hospital, December 31st, 1922	13	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	16
Admitted during 1923 :—									
City Cases	66	136	*21	1	3	1	39	1	268
County	10	6	4	-	-	-	1	-	21
Number who have died in Hospital, 1923	3	2	1	-	1	-	2	-	9
Remaining under treatment on December 31st, 1923	1	12	10	-	-	-	5	-	28
Average stay in Hospital, 1923 (Days)	32	30.2	32.2	35	14.5	8	18.5	5	-

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES ADMITTED FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS.

	Gloucester R.D.C.	Newent R.D.C.	Forest of Dean.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	5	1	-	6
Enteric Fever	3	1	-	4
Measles	1	-	-	1
Diphtheria	6	3	1	10
			TOTAL	21

* In addition 3 cases admitted as Typhoid Fever were re-diagnosed as follows :—Malignant Disease of Colon, 1 ; Enteritis, 2. 1 case admitted for Measles developed Para-Typhoid B.

CITY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Diseases.	No. of Cases.	Age period (Years).				No. of Deaths.	Age period (Years).				Case Mortality.
		0-5	5-10	10-15	15 and over.		0-5	5-10	10-15	15 and over.	
Scarlet Fever ...	136	26	50	42	18	2	-	1	1	-	1.4
Diphtheria ...	66	19	25	11	11	3	2	1	-	-	4.5
Enteric Fever ...	21	3	2	6	10	1	-	-	-	1	4.7
Measles ...	39	31	6	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	5.1

DEATHS.

Measles :—Complication in both cases, Pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever :—Complication, Measles.

Diphtheria :—1 case admitted 3rd day of illness.

"	"	5th	"
"	"	16th	"

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	TOTAL DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR
Certified ...	...	...	22...	2...	5...	1...	30...	17...	10...	5...	11...	73
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	...	...	1...	2
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	2...	2...	1...	6
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diarrhœa, all forms, including Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, &c.			...	...	...	...	...	1...	1...	...	1...	3
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Premature Birth ...	...	...	16...	...	2...	...	18...	2...	...	...	...	20
Congenital Defects ...	...	...	2...	1...	1...	...	4...	2...	1...	1...	...	8
Injury at Birth ...	...	...	2...	...	...	...	2...	...	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus			...	1...	2...	...	3...	7...	2...	...	1...	13
Tuberculous Meningitis			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	1...	1...	2...	...	...	4
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1...	2
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1...	1...	2...	1...	2...	7
Suffocation, overlaying			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1...	1
Other Causes ...	...	...	1...	...	...	...	1...	1...	...	...	1...	3
TOTALS	...	...	22...	2...	5...	1...	30...	17...	10...	5...	11...	73

Births Registered during the year :—Legitimate, 1032. Illegitimate, 27.

Deaths Registered during the year :—Legitimate, 67. Illegitimate, 6.

Infant Death-rate :—Legitimate, 65.9. Illegitimate, 222.2. Total, 68.9

BIRTH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1904.

			Birth Rate per 1000. total population.	Infantile Death-Rate under 1 year per 1000 births.	
1904	...	...	26.3	...	134.6
1905	...	...	26.3	...	113.0
1906	...	...	28.0	...	120.9
1907	...	...	23.4	...	127.7
1908	...	...	23.9	...	113.1
1909	...	...	22.5	...	97.8
1910	...	...	20.7	...	85.5
1911	...	...	25.0	...	104.7
1912	...	...	22.6	...	104.4
1913	...	...	23.8	...	87.8
1914	...	...	25.4	...	90.23
1915	...	...	22.7	...	104.5
1916	...	...	10.1	...	81.0
1917	...	...	13.27	...	78.62
1918	...	...	16.13	...	83.0
1919	...	...	18.9	...	82.0
1920	...	...	27.5	...	63.5
1921	...	...	24.5	...	81.5
1922	...	...	21.7	...	77.0
1923	...	...	20.0	...	68.9

The year 1923 shows a further reduction in the rate of infant mortality.

It will be seen from the infant mortality table that of 73 deaths of children under 1 year of age, 30 occurred during the first month of life, 22 during the first week.

In order to bring about a reduction in these figures there must be an extension of ante-natal supervision, and it is hoped that the year 1924 will see an increase in the work of the ante-natal clinic.

The Centres are open as follows :—

Centre.	Health Visitor at Centre.	Day.	Time.	Doctor attending.
St. Mark's Institute, Sweetbriar Street.	Miss Neale ...	Monday...	2 to 4 p.m.	Dr. Goss.
St. James' Mission Hall, High Street.	Miss Williams	Tuesday	do.	Dr. Haines.
Wesley Hall, Seymour Road.	Miss Hewer ...	Wednesday	do.	Dr. Greene.
St. Mary's Hall, St. Mary's Square.	Miss Neale ...	Thursday	do.	Dr. Sprague.
Alington Hall, Derby Road.	Miss Williams	Friday	do.	Dr. Terry.
Ante-Natal Clinic, 5, Barton Street.	Miss Palmer	Thursday	10-30 a.m.	Dr. Colquhoun.

Miss Palmer and Miss MacDonald attend every Centre and when necessary two Health Visitors attend at each Centre.

In addition, Miss Palmer is in attendance each morning at 5, Barton Street, the Headquarters of the Gloucester Voluntary Association for Infant Welfare, and many mothers call for advice.

The following table summarises the work carried out at the Centres during the year.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE CENTRES DURING THE YEAR.

	Central.	Kingsholm.	Tredworth.	Southend.	Westgate.	Alington.	Total.
Meetings held...	45	32	31	32	31	30	201
Attendances :—							
Mothers	172	744	855	1466	1194	1117	5548
Babies	—	756	705	1266	966	926	3919
Toddlers	—	237	202	420	355	307	1521
Expectant Mothers	720	—	—	—	—	—	720

Joined during year :—

Babies	—	47	65	112	73	90	387
Toddlers	—	14	15	8	12	8	57
Expectant Mothers	165	—	—	—	—	—	165

Numbers on Registers at close of year :—

Babies	—	121	194	324	185	254	1078
Toddlers	—	58	75	27	108	138	406
Expectant Mothers	42	—	—	—	—	—	42

* In addition, 103 mothers attended the temporary Morning Clinic held during the Epidemic in August.

The Superintendent of Infant Welfare reports as follows :—

“ The Smallpox epidemic and consequent closing of the Infant Welfare Centres for 14 weeks, had necessarily a bad effect upon the general attendance at the Centres ; but a distinct improvement was recognisable by the end of the year, there being well over 1,000 babies then on the books, as well as over 400 toddlers.

It is a noticeable fact that more than half of these children were brought to the Centres within their first two months of life, and many of them in their first month, it being so important that the mothers should be rightly advised from the very beginning.

Also, another encouraging fact is that more than two-thirds of our babies are fed by their mothers, artificial feeding being always discouraged in our routine teaching.

The number of deaths among the babies has been rather higher, this being attributable in most cases to Measles and Bronchitis.

The change of day for the ante-natal clinic from Monday afternoon to Thursday morning has proved on the whole to work well, although it always takes a certain time for mothers to get used to another day. The attendance has been satisfactory, in spite of many wet and cold mornings.

In spite of a difficult year we feel that progress has been made in the educational side of the work, that mothers begin to realise the value of preventive methods, and good advice which have always been the outstanding features of our Infant Welfare Centres.”

SUMMARY OF HEALTH VISITORS' WORK.

Home visits <i>re</i> births ...	...	...	...	...	1001
„ re-visits <i>re</i> births (under 1 year of age) ...	...	...	...	...	5351
„ „ children 1 to 5 years of age ...	...	...	...	...	3460
„ visits <i>re</i> Stillbirths ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Measles ...	...	...	...	...	1545
„ „ Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	131
„ „ Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	114
„ „ Suspicious illness ...	...	...	...	...	1486
„ „ Expectant Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	1167
Houses inspected and reported ...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous visits ...	...	...	...	...	1609
Infant Welfare Centres (Attendances at) ...	...	...	...	...	191

SUMMARY OF CASES SUPPLIED WITH DINNERS,
MILK, &C., DURING 1923.

Number of families relieved ...	...	...	...	...	...	425
Number of dinners given ...	...	...	...	...	...	10,871
Milk given ...	...	...	...	...	...	...pints 63,698
GLAXO :—						
Sold ...	...	...	...	...	...	lbs. 664
Given ...	...	...	...	...	...	„ 243
VIROL :—						
Sold ...	...	...	...	...	...	213 lbs. 4 ozs.
Given ...	...	...	...	...	...	104 lbs. 8 ozs.
COD LIVER OIL AND MALT :—						
Sold ...	...	...	...	...	...	42 lbs. 8 ozs.
Given ...	...	...	...	...	...	184 lbs. 8ozs.

DENTAL TREATMENT IN CONNECTION WITH INFANT WELFARE
FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

The Dentist (Mr. Machin) reports as follows :—

“ It was decided that sessions for treatment should only be held when three or more patients had made application or had received appointments for continued treatment.

During the year 23 patients applied for, and received treatment. It was known that many more women than this were urgently in need of treatment, but were continuing to suffer the ill-effects of bad teeth rather than apply.

Visits were made by me to the various Centres, and it was found that some of the medical men regarded the scheme as an inception of a kind of state dentistry with which they had no sympathy. It was explained that the patients being poor and needy, no other dentist was being robbed of work, and further, that unless they (the doctors) were willing to encourage the mothers to obtain treatment, very few would ever go to any dentist whatever, as the women, for the most part, are too timid and untaught to make any move on their own initiative, yet the word of the doctor explaining the benefits of treatment, both for themselves and their babies, will usually be followed.

Since the occasion of the visits to the Centres there has been a slight increase in the number of applications for treatment, but it is apparent that progress will be slow. Besides the question of fear of physical pain, there is frequently a suspicion present in people's minds that the scheme is a "charity" concern. It is possible that a small charge would be no deterrent.

The following is a list of the actual work done during the year :—

Number of Sessions held ...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of Patients treated ...	...	...	...	...	23
Total number of Attendances made ...	...	...	...	...	42
Number of Teeth Filled ...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Teeth extracted ...	...	...	...	...	88
Number of Patients specially treated for Pyorrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Administrations of general anæsthetic ...	...	...	...	...	11

SCHOOL AND DENTAL CLINICS.

The School Clinic is carried out at the Health Office, New Inn Lane, and is open every morning in the school term, except Saturday. Dr. Colquhoun and the School Nurse being in attendance.

Children attend for treatment of minor ailments and eye and ear defects and special inspection.

The Dental Clinic is also held at the same address, Mr. Machin, the School Dentist, being in attendance.

These two Clinics are organised by the Education Committee.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

The greater part of nursing and midwifery in the City is carried out by the Gloucester District Nursing Society. This Society, which is a Voluntary Organisation, consists of a Superintendent, 5 midwives, 8 pupils, and 4 general district nurses.

No special arrangements have been made by the Local Authority for the nursing of cases of Infectious Disease. As mentioned previously in the report cases of Measles are visited by the Health Visitors who advise on the general care of the children.

MIDWIVES.

No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

There were 5 independent midwives practising in the City in the year, and they attended a total of 193 cases. 720 cases were attended by midwives from the District Nursing Society.

In 122 cases medical assistance was called for by Medical Help forms.

The Local Authority is responsible for the payment of the fees in these cases and recovers, if possible, the whole or part of the cost from the patients.

Conditions for which Medical Aid was obtained :—

				District Nurses.		Independent Midwives.
Albuminuria	...	...	...	2	...	—
Fits ...	...	...	...	2	...	—
Vomiting and Feebleness			...	1	...	—
General condition of patient			...	2	...	—
Ante-partum Hæmorrhage			...	3	...	—
Rash on body	...	...	...	1	...	—
Venereal Disease and Sores			...	1	...	—
Delayed 2nd Stage	...	...		18	...	—
Prolonged Labour		...	...	—	...	5
Contracted Pelvis		...	...	—	...	2
Abnormal Presentation	...	...		2	...	—
Breech	„	...	...	—	...	1
Extended Breech Presentation	...			4	...	1
Breech Presentation and Prolapsed Cord				1	...	—
Face Presentation	...	...		1	...	—
Transverse Presentation	...	...		2	...	1
Impacted Head	...	...	...	—	...	2
Unreduced Occipito-posterior	...			4	...	—
Adherent Placenta	...	...		7	...	—
Retained Placenta	...	...		—	...	2
Twins (one transverse)	...	...		1	...	—
Twins (complicated)	...	...		1	...	—
Triplets	...	...	...	—	...	1
Ruptured Perineum	...	...		20	...	2
Post-partum Hæmorrhage			...	—	...	2
Raised Temperature and Pulse...				3	...	—
Abortion	...	...	...	—	...	1
Feeble Baby (1 case of twins)				18	...	2
Hæmatemesis of Baby	...	...		1	...	—
Discharge from Baby's eyes	...			3	...	1
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	1	...	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	99	...	23

A Maternity Home, comprising 8 beds, is also carried out by the District Nursing Society.

Arrangements have been made with this Society for cases to be admitted, when recommended by the Medical Officer of

Health, on account of complications or poor home conditions. The Local Authority is responsible for the payment of the fees in these cases and recovers, if possible, the whole or part of the cost from the patients. 22 cases were admitted under these arrangements during the year 1923, 13 on account of home conditions and 9 on account of complications.

AMBULANCES.

The Local Authority is in possession of 2 motor ambulances, both presented by the British Red Cross Society. One is used solely for infectious disease work and is stationed at the Isolation Hospital. The other ambulance is garaged in the town and used for general town work. It is felt that the best use is not made of this ambulance, and it is hoped that more satisfactory arrangements for a City ambulance service will be made during the coming year.

During the year 1923 this second ambulance was used for the removal of Smallpox patients, and was garaged at Brockworth. It was restored to its previous arrangements before the end of the year.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

During the year changes were made in the arrangements for the carrying out of the treatment for Venereal Diseases.

During the greater part of the year clinics were held as follows :—

Mondays and Thursdays	...	...	11 a.m.
Tuesdays and Fridays	...	...	6-30 p.m.

As a result of a visit by a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health it was decided to reduce the number of clinics. It was felt that in this way it would be possible to bring about a definite reduction in the cost of this branch of work without materially reducing its benefits, and clinics are now held as follows :—

Mondays	...	...	...	...	11 a.m.
Fridays	...	...	...	...	6-30 p.m.

WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC
DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Disease.	Number of Persons attending the Clinics.		Number of attendances.	Number of In-Patient days
	Males.	Females.		
Syphilis ...	120	85	603	160
Soft Chancre ...	25	0	25	—
Gonorrhœa ...	89	14	385	—
Other Diseases	10	9	27	—
TOTAL	244	108	1040	160

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS :—During the year the following specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre were examined at the Laboratory :—

For detection of Gonococci	...	...	11
For Wassermann Re-action...	...	...	72

These figures include all patients treated (*i.e.*, City and County cases, etc.).

The following Table refers to City cases only :—

Number of persons from area dealt with during the year for the first time and found to be suffering from :—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	21
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	2
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	24
Conditions other than Venereal	...	...	...	...	6
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	53

Total number of attendances of all patients residing in the area ... 688

Aggregate number of " In-patient days " of all patients residing in the area ... 57

Number of doses of arsenobenzol compounds given to the patients residing in the area :—

1. Out-Patient Clinic	...	...	137
2. In-Patient Department	...	...	8

LABORATORY WORK.

Throat swabs and specimens of sputum for City cases and the Isolation Hospital are examined by Mr. Washbourn. All other bacteriological examinations are made by Professor Walker Hall, of Bristol University.

The following Table shows the number of specimens sent for examination, and the amount of Antitoxin supplied by the Health Department to Private Practitioners :—

	FROM HEALTH DEPARTMENT.		FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.	
	Positive.	Negative.	Positive.	Negative.
Throat or nose swabs examined for presence of B. Diphtheriæ ...	20	119	19	120
Sputum specimens ex- amined for presence of tubercle bacilli ...	4	—	55	163
Specimens of blood ex- amined for presence of Widal Re-action ...	2	3	9	4

Antitoxin provided by Health Department to Medical Practitioners,
20,000 Units.

STORAGE, Etc. OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This matter does not come under the control of the Health Department, though it is intimately associated with the health of the City, and I make no apology in referring to it.

It had been my intention to recommend that Section 53 of the Gloucester Corporation Act, 1911, making necessary the provision of proper receptacles for house refuse be enforced. I am pleased to see however that the Council has passed a resolution enforcing this section.

The present state of affairs is to my mind absolutely disgraceful. A walk through the main streets of the town in the early morning, shows along the edge of both pavements a series of uncovered boxes in various states of dilapidation full to overflowing with refuse of varying kinds. Should the morning be gusty one's eyes and mouth are filled with particles of this refuse.

These boxes are found in front of provision shops many of which are open-fronted and the spectacle of articles intended for human consumption temptingly arrayed in an open-fronted shop, exposed to all the dirt of the street containing a large proportion of excremental matter, with a large uncovered box of refuse standing a few feet away is not a pleasant one.

I should have thought that the owners of these shops would have considered it to be in their own interests to provide proper receptacles, but as apparently they do not, I do consider that in the interests of the public health the section referred to should be rigidly enforced.

Included amongst the bye-laws for the Good Rule and Government of the City of Gloucester made on the 29th July, 1908, Section 23, makes it an offence for any person to disturb the contents of receptacles containing house or other refuse, so that any of such contents are strewn in the street. I have no hesitation in recommending that this bye-law be enforced.

One frequently sees children and adults armed with bags, etc., making a collection of any articles they consider of use or value from the refuse which is awaiting the arrival of the scavenging carts.

It would be impossible to condemn this practice in too strong terms, and I consider that this unsavoury business should be immediately stopped.

Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector for 1923.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

SAMPLES TAKEN.

			Formal		Informal		Adulterated
Butter	—	...	12	...	—
Lard	—	...	12	...	—
Coffee	—	...	16	...	—

PUBLIC HEALTH, MILK AND CREAM.

Nil.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Since the adoption of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, all Purveyors of Milk and Cowkeepers have been supplied with forms of application for re-registration, and a new register is now being compiled.

There are on such Register :—

Retail Purveyors of Milk in the City	...	76
Wholesale Traders in the City	...	6

In addition to the above there are on hand five applications from Cowkeepers within the City, and twenty-eight from Retail Purveyors residing outside but carrying on business inside the City. In regard to the former, registration is being withheld pending the carrying out of necessary improvements to Cowsheds, and in regard to the latter, until arrangements have been made with the outside Authorities for inspection of premises, &c., concerned.

Only a very small quantity of milk is sold from shops, the bulk being dealt with by house-to-house delivery.

The majority of the Retail Purveyors acquire their milk from two Milk Depots in the City, which receive their supplies from farms in the surrounding districts.

The milk at these Depots is centrifugalized, pasteurized and cooled over refrigerator, and then over unfreezeable brine on the same cooler.

Inspections during the year:—

Milkshops	...	...	...	...	104
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	24
Written notices served	...	...	...	...	1
Verbal notices given	...	...	...	...	22
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	23

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are altogether nineteen private slaughter-houses in the City, fourteen of which are held under annual license, the remaining five are registered.

The average number of animals slaughtered per week is as follows:—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
42	33	227	136

The conditions of the Slaughter-houses in general are far from satisfactory, and in only one instance approach anywhere near the recommendations of the late Local Government Board. Such recommendations give 100 ft. as the minimum distance of a private slaughter-house from a dwelling-house, but eight are within a few feet and seven actually abut on dwelling houses, and in three cases the approach is by a narrow passage leading to dwelling-houses. Most of the buildings are much too small and efficient ventilation is rarely obtained.

Lairs.—The provision of lairage is far from satisfactory. In the majority of cases the lairs open direct into the slaughter-house, and in three instances are only part of the slaughter-house railed off.

Cooling Chambers.—Only one slaughter-house is properly provided with a cooling chamber. In the others the actual slaughter-house has to do duty as a cooling chamber. In two premises, animals are penned, slaughtered and hung up to cool in the same enclosure.

Drainage.—Water Supply.—Lighting.—The first two are fairly satisfactory. Drainage is carried off by open channels to gullies outside the buildings, connected to drains communicating with the City Sewer.

With one exception, where a pump is in use, all are supplied by taps from the City Water Main discharging to tubs or similar receptacles.

Lighting in some instances is not so satisfactory.

An objectionable feature in several instances is the presence in the slaughter-house of a furnace for boiling water, charging the air with moisture. This is accentuated where, as frequently happens, pigs are scalded in the same building.

Inspection.—Inspection of carcasses in Private Slaughter-houses can never be satisfactory, especially when one considers that slaughtering may be done any time during day or night.

Generally most of the slaughtering is carried out during the first three days of the week, but occasionally certain butchers slaughter on Sunday.

Inspections have to be made both early and late. As there is nothing to prevent a butcher from removing offal (the organs, &c.) immediately after slaughtering, the Inspector occasionally finds on his arrival that such has been done.

As previously mentioned most of the buildings are too small, and owing to the carcasses being hung close together

(usually in a poor light) inspection is both difficult and unpleasant.

In several instances the butcher resides or has his shop some distance from the Slaughter-house, and unless the Inspector arrives during the time of slaughtering he may find the premises locked up and be unable to procure the key.

The Slaughter-houses are not centred in one part of the City, but are situated in all districts as far apart as Madleiz Road, Ducie Street, India Road, London Road, Kingsholm and the lower part of Westgate Street.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS OR OCCUPIED BY MEMBERS OF MORE THAN ONE FAMILY.

There are seventeen of such on the Register.

There are certain houses in the City which the owners let out in rooms to different families, or in which the chief tenant does the same.

It is important that all such houses should be registered, and so come under the Bye-laws, as in this way only can effectual supervision be kept over them and cleanliness enforced ; but, owing to the present scarcity of houses, many are at least in temporary occupation by two families and circumstances do not permit of such being dealt with on the register.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are six of these houses registered for a total maximum of 254 lodgers. All are situate in Westgate Street.

During the recent epidemic numerous special night inspections were made. Two cases of Smallpox occurred in one house, and one in another. All three were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

By Section 92 of the Gloucester Corporation Act, 1911, where a dangerous infectious disease is supposed to exist, the Medical Officer of Health is, under certain conditions, authorised to medically examine any person found in a Common Lodging House.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Supervision has been kept over the various places where these trades are carried on. All shops where fish frying is carried on are supplied with special apparatus for the prevention of effluvia nuisance.

Among the offensive trades there are :—

Fifteen dealers in rags, bones and rabbit skins.

Two dealers in hides, skins, &c.

One tallow and fat melter.

Two tripe boilers and thirteen butchers undertake tripe boiling.

PROSECUTIONS.

Proceedings were taken and penalties imposed in the following cases :—

Non-abatement of Nuisance ...	Owner ordered to do work or dispose of house within one month. House disposed of and also work done.
Wilful obstruction of Magistrate's Order.	Fined £5.
Failing to carry out work ...	Adjourned for 2 weeks. Work done.
Non-abatement of nuisance ...	Magistrate's Order to abate nuisance within seven days and pay costs. Work done.

INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

Owing to the abnormal amount of work in connection with infectious disease during the year, the time which could

be devoted to inspection of places where food is prepared was very limited ; but with the addition to the Inspectors' Staff and the return to normal conditions this very necessary work will have the attention it calls for.

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

3	Carcases of Beef	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
4	Forequarters of Beef	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
1	Carcase of Beef	...	...	...	...	Fevered
437	lbs. Frozen Beef	...	...	...	...	Bone Taint
846	„ „ „	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
168	„ „ „	...	...	...	...	Bruised
44	„ Tripe	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
50	„ Chilled Beef	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
2	Lambs' Carcases	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
1	Sheep's Carcase	...	...	...	...	Suffocation
1	„ „	...	...	...	...	Moribund
3	cwt. Bacon	...	...	...	...	Tainted
10	Sides Bacon	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
4	Beef Lungs	...	...	...	...	Abscesses
3	„ „	...	...	...	...	Pleurisy
18	„ „	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
9	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cysts
59	Beef Livers	...	...	...	...	Abscesses
7	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cirrhosis
4	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cavernus Angioma
1	„ „	...	...	...	...	Necrosis
3	„ „	...	...	...	...	Inflammation
5	„ „	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
44	„ „	...	...	...	...	Flukes
7	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cysts
1	„ „	...	...	...	...	Fatty degeneration
6	Beef Heads	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
2	Beef Tongues	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
1	Beef Stomach	...	...	...	...	Inflammation
8	lots of Beef Offal	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
1	Calve's Liver	...	...	...	...	Inflammation
14	Sheeps' Livers	...	...	...	...	Cysts
2	„ „	...	...	...	...	Abscesses
13	„ „	...	...	...	...	Flukes
8	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cirrhosis

2	Sheeps' Lungs	...	...	...	...	Strongylus
2	Sheeps' Races	...	...	...	...	Cysts
2	Sheeps' Lungs	...	...	...	...	Pleurisy
9	Pigs' Livers	...	...	...	...	Cirrhosis
3	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cysts
4	„ „	...	...	...	...	Inflammation
3	„ „	...	...	...	...	Necrosis
5	„ „	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
28	Pigs' Lungs	...	...	...	...	Pleurisy
4	„ „	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
1	„ „	...	...	...	...	Pneumonia
3	„ „	...	...	...	...	Cysts
9	Pigs' Hearts	...	...	...	...	Pericarditis
6	Pigs' Heads	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
2	Pigs' Kidneys	...	...	...	...	Nephritis
1	Pig's Race	...	...	...	...	Cysts
4	Lots of Pigs' Offal	...	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
2	Pigs' Carcases	...	...	...	...	Dropsical
7	Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
1	Tin of liquid Eggs, 22 lbs....	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
79	Tins of Beef	...	...	...	...	Blown
24	„ Tongue	...	...	...	...	„
13	„ Milk	...	...	...	...	„
240	„ Salmon	...	...	...	...	„
6	„ Lobster	...	...	...	...	„
8	„ Herrings and Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	„
1	„ Salad Dressing	...	...	...	...	„
9	„ Apricots	...	...	...	...	„
22	„ Pineapple Chunks	...	...	...	...	„
3	„ Pears	...	...	...	...	„
1	„ Fruit Salad	...	...	...	...	„
6	„ Peaches	...	...	...	...	„
15	„ Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	„
18 lbs.	Prawns	...	...	...	...	Decomposition
2010	„ Plums	...	...	...	...	„
2670	„ Pears	...	...	...	...	„

APPENDICES. HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics for Year ended 31st December, 1923.

General.

Number of New Houses erected during 1923 :—

A. Total	6
B. With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, or 1923	
(1) By the Local Authority	—
(2) By other bodies or persons	—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	659
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected, and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	93
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	369
Number of verminous houses dealt with under Gloucester Corporation Act, 1894	0

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	255
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) by owner	11
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	12
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 :—

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	*9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..	0
(6)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished without Demolition Order having been made	5

ABSTRACT OF NOTICES (PRELIMINARY & STATUTORY) SERVED, INSPECTIONS MADE, WORK DONE, &c.

Total number of Preliminary Notices served during 1923	538
" " complied with	398
" " outstanding	140

Made up as follows ;—

Notices for defects	369
" complied with	255
" outstanding	114
Notices for nuisances	169
" complied with	143
" outstanding	26
Verbal Notices complied with during 1923	266

Inspection of Houses under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Number of houses inspected	93
-----------------------------------	----

The following Notices were served .—

Notices for Defects	53
" complied with	36
" outstanding	17
Notices for Nuisances	1
" complied with	1
" outstanding	0

* In view of the large number of persons occupying six of these houses, and the impossibility of their obtaining other accommodation, the Health Committee decided not to proceed with Closing Orders in those cases, particularly as the Owners arranged to carry out certain work in connection with roofs, etc.

In the case of the other three houses Closing Orders were made in January, 1924.

Complaints.

No. of Houses inspected on account of complaints made	317
-------------------------------------------------------	-----

Preliminary Notices were served, viz. :—	
------------------------------------------	--

Notices for Defects	104
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

" complied with	50
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

" outstanding	54
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Notices for Nuisances	62
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" complied with	45
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

" outstanding	17
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Verbal Notices complied with	32
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Statutory Notices.

Number served for Nuisances	12
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

" complied with	12
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

" outstanding	0
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Number served for defects under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919	12
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

" complied with	11
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

" outstanding	1
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Number served for removal of refuse	3
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" complied with	3
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

" outstanding	0
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Work Done.

Drains repaired	32
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

New drains	54
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Inspection chambers	30
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Vent shafts	49
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Drains cleared	75
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Sink waste pipe disconnected	23
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Glazed gully traps	126
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Glazed sink troughs	28
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

New soil pipes	14
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

New water closets	23
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New pedestal basins	63
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

New w.c. basins	42
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

New closet traps	3
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

New flush boxes	16
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Water closets repaired	76
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Water closets cleansed, &c.	25
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Flush boxes repaired	29
Water supply to w.c.	2
New urinals	4
Urinals cleansed	2
Roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	...	80
Handrail to stairs provided	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired ...	...	...	...	...	19
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	22
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	149
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	141
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	82
New spouting ...	...	...	...	...	2
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	47
Furnace repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Chimney repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	18
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	51
Additional light provided	...	...	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired ...	...	...	...	...	56
Rain water pipes disconnected	...	...	...	...	16
Overcrowding abated ...	...	...	...	...	5
Animals removed	...	...	...	...	9
Manure, &c., removed...	...	...	...	...	13
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	5
Food cupboard provided	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	139
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	1
Drain Tests :—					
Smoke	...	...	...	...	59
Water	...	...	...	...	281
Chemical	...	...	...	...	132

Inspections, &c.

Special visits ...	...	...	...	...	932
Complaints visit	...	...	...	...	702
Houses inspected :—					
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	165
Others	...	...	...	...	494
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	24
Dairies and Milkshops...	...	...	...	...	104

Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1519
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	108
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	247
Places where food is prepared	...	...	...	...	...	142
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	44
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	37
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	383
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	23
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	2154
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1708
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2502*
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	...	39

Houses in which certain cases of Infectious Disease have occurred

SCARLET FEVER.

Number of houses inspected...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Notices served for Defects	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	...	30
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices served for Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	1

DIPHTHERIA.

Number of houses inspected...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Notices served for Defects	...	...	...	...	...	29
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Notices served for Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	0

ERYSIPELAS.

Number of houses inspected..	...	...	...	...	...	20
Notices served for Defects	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices served for Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	1

* This figure does not include the inspections made by the two temporary Sanitary Inspectors from Bristol.

PNEUMONIA.

Number of houses inspected...	...	...	...	...	60
Notices served for Defects	...	...	...	...	9
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	9
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	0
Notices served for Nuisances	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	0

TYPHOID FEVER.

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	64
Notices served for Defects	...	...	...	...	10
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	6
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	2
Notices served for Nuisances	...	...	...	...	4
Ditto complied with	...	...	...	...	2
Ditto outstanding	...	...	...	...	2

NOTE.—Owing to pressure of work during the Smallpox epidemic it was impossible to inspect the houses for defects where cases of Smallpox or Chicken-pox occurred.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection.

Bedding from all Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases is removed to the City Isolation Hospital, Over, and there dealt with by a steam disinfector, and rooms which such cases have occupied are disinfected by means of formalin lamps.

Bedding from Smallpox cases is removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Brockworth, and also dealt with by a steam disinfector there, and rooms which such cases have occupied are thoroughly drenched with formalin spray.

Following on fatal cases of Tuberculosis, rooms are sprayed with formalin.

Disinfestation.

Disinfestation is carried out by means of formalin spray or by the burning of sulphur candles.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year.

J. S. FORSTER, A.S.I.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

BYE-LAWS, LOCAL ACTS AND GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

1. Bye-Laws, Slaughter-houses, 28th October, 1884.
2. Bye-Laws, Nuisances, 28th October, 1884.
3. Bye-Laws, Offensive Trades, 24th April, 1912.
4. Regulations, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 28th November, 1906.
5. Gloucester Corporation Act, 1894.
6. Gloucester Corporation Act, 1911.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (except Sections 22 and 23) and parts 2, 3 and 5 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted by the City Council on the 8th September, 1891. See recital in Gloucester (Extension) Order, 1900.

Order of Secretary of State, dated 14th July, 1911, declaring Sections 80, 81, 85 and 86 of Part VII. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, to be in force in the City.

Order of Local Government Board, dated 17th October, 1911, declaring that :—

Sections 16, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, and 33 comprised in Part II. ;

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51 comprised in Part III. ;

Sections 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67 and 68 comprised in Part IV.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises	Inspections		Number of Written Notices		Prosecutions	
Factories, including Factory Laundries ...	139	...	11	...	0	0
Workshops, including Workshop Laundries	174	...	8	...	0	0
Workplaces, other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report ...	39	...	1	...	0	0
Total ...	...	...	352	...	20	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects				Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosec- utions
	Found	Remedied				
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>						
Want of cleanliness	4	4	0			0
Other nuisances	1	1	0			0
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	4	4	0			0
„ unsuitable or defective	4	4	0			0
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>						
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (S.S. 97 to 100) ...	1	1	0			0
Other offences	7	7	0			0
Totals	21	21	0			0

3.—HOME WORK.

Home Work	Lists of Outworkers (Sec. 107)—	Number of	
		Lists	Outworkers
Making Wearing Apparel		34	94
„ Sacks... ..		2	4
		36	98

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year ..	243
Bakehouses	46
Total number of workshops on Register	289

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class	No.
Action taken in matters referred to H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (Sec. 5)—Notified to H.M. Inspector	6
Ditto—Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors ...	11
<i>Underground Bakehouses (S. 101)—</i>	
In use at the end of the year	2

REPORT OF PORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Sanitary Committee of the Gloucester Port
Sanitary Authority.*

By an Order of the Local Government Board, issued in 1894, the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Gloucester, acting by the Council as the Urban Sanitary Authority, were permanently constituted the Port Sanitary Authority for the Port Sanitary District of Gloucester.

By the same Order it was directed that the following should contribute towards the expenses incurred by the Port Sanitary Authority :—

The Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority	...	...	45%
The Dursley Rural Sanitary Authority	...	...	3%
The Gloucester Rural Sanitary Authority	...	...	15%
The Thornbury Rural Sanitary Authority	...	...	30%
The Wheatenhurst Rural Sanitary Authority	...	...	7%

New Regulations as to grants in aid, dated 14th July, 1920, provide that half the approved expenditure of a Port Sanitary Authority will be borne by the Ministry of Health.

The jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority extends over an area which may shortly be described as comprising the Docks at Gloucester and Sharpness with the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal, and the eastern side of the waterway from Sharpness to the site of the Severn Tunnel, where the Port of Bristol ends. The Authority's jurisdiction also extends over the places appointed as Customs Boarding Stations, or as mooring or anchorage stations, for the purpose of preventing

the spread of disease, and also extends to any ship directed to be moored or anchored there, or which is on its way to such station.

TRADE.

During the year 1,353 vessels with a total net tonnage of 252,632 entered the Port.

The chief imports from "Foreign" were timber, various kinds of grain, cotton seed, sugar and general merchandise.

There was very little export trade, vessels generally sail "light" for one of the other Channel Ports for loading.

Imports "Coastwise" were flour, various kinds of grain, cotton seed, linseed, ground nuts, china clay, cement, stones, and general merchandise.

Exports "Coastwise." Various kinds of grain, cotton seed, pickles, flour, salt and general goods.

The following list gives the Foreign Ports from which cargoes were imported :—

From	Sailing	Steam	From	Sailing	Steam
Alexandria	2	Onega ...	...	1
Antwerp	10	Oporto ...	...	1
Archangel	6	Orange (Texas) ...	...	1
Baltimore	1	Philadelphia ...	...	1
Batskarnas	1	Phillippeville ...	...	1
Braila	3	Pitea ...	...	1
Bremen	1	Pomaron (Portugal) ...	...	1
Brevik	1	Portland, Me. ...	...	1
Chatham, N.B.	1	Rafso ...	...	1
Christiania	2	Raumo ...	...	1
Christiansund	1	Riga ...	...	3
Dantzic	1	River Plate ...	...	17
Domsjo	2	Rotterdam ...	...	6
Fredrikstad...	1	Rufesque ...	...	1
Gefle	1	San Antonio (Chili) ...	1	—
Gravosa	1	Sarpsborg ...	...	2
Hamburg	23	St. John, N.B. ...	...	4
Haparanda	1	St. Malo ...	...	1
Helsinborg	1	Stockholm ...	...	1
Hennebont	1	St. Valery ...	1	—
Hernosund	1	Sundsvall ...	...	1
Irish Ports ...	4	5	Trangsund ...	...	5
Kemi	1	Tunis ...	...	1
Kotka	1	Uleaborg ...	...	3
Mo (Sweden)	1	Ulnea ...	...	1
Montreal	1	Windau ...	...	1
New York	1	Wyborg ...	...	2

SANITATION OF VESSELS.

The Port Sanitary Inspector is MR. E. UPHAM, who is also Canal Boat Inspector, and one of the Sanitary Inspectors for the City. He is stationed at Gloucester and makes frequent visits to Sharpness to make inspections of all shipping there, and carries out all the work at the Gloucester Docks.

The Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector is stationed at Sharpness, where he is also Harbour Master. He carries out any duties required of him, mostly in connection with vessels from "infected" ports and also the serving of notices *re* Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

FORM A (1923).

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1923.

	Number		Tonnage		Number Inspected— By the Medical Officer of Health			By the Sanitary Inspector		Number reported to be defective		Number of orders issued	
FOREIGN —													
Steamers	190	...	169,828	...	8	...	147	...	28	...	28		
Sailing	12	...	2,629	...	0	..	6	...	1	...	1		
Fishing	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0		
Total Foreign	202	...	172,457	...	8	...	153	...	29	...	29		
COASTWISE—													
Steamers	300	...	34,208	..	0	..	126	...	9	...	9		
Sailing	851	...	45,967	...	0	...	220	...	15	...	15		
Fishing	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0		
Total Coastwise	1151	...	80,175	...	0	...	346	...	24	...	24		
Total Foreign & Coastwise	1353	...	252,632	...	8	...	499	...	53	...	53		

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF DISEASE.

Every vessel from "Foreign" arriving in the Port of Gloucester is boarded by the Officer of Customs at Sharpness, who makes enquiries as to the existence of any illness on board during the voyage or on arrival. All cases of sickness coming to the knowledge of the officer are immediately reported by telephone to the Medical Officer of Health.

The Port Sanitary Inspector also makes further enquiries as to the health of the crew, and as to rat mortality on board, when he inspects the ship, and also requests the master to sign a Health Certificate.

In addition, special attention is given to all vessels from countries where suspicion of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever or other dangerous communicable disease exists.

Weekly lists of Infected Ports are supplied to the Officer of Customs at Sharpness and also to the Pilots of the Port.

As the deep water channel to the Port of Gloucester passes through Kingroad, and as anchorage is dangerous outside the entrance to the Port of Gloucester, the responsibility of dealing with Cholera, Plague and Yellow Fever in Gloucester bound ships was placed by the Local Government Order of 24th April, 1897, and confirmed in the Order of 1909, upon the Bristol Port Sanitary Authority.

The Bristol and Gloucester Port Sanitary Authorities have agreed upon a scale of fees for the services to be rendered by the Bristol Port Sanitary Authority as regards the inspection of Gloucester bound ships from time to time, and the dealing with such vessels if infected, and the removal and treatment of any infected persons found thereon ; the question as to the vessels to be inspected to be arranged by the two Authorities from time to time, having regard to the prevalence of disease and other circumstances.

During the year the following ship was inspected by the Officers of the Bristol Port Sanitary Authority in Kingroad :—

Date	Ship	Medically inspected	Disin- fected	Port of Sailing
February ...	S.S. Gerd ...	Yes ...	Yes ...	Alexandria

All vessels from plague infected ports are served with notices under the Cholera, Yellow Fever and Plague Regulations, 1909, Art. XIII. (1 and 2), Art. XIV. (1 and 2), immediately upon arrival, requiring the Masters to take certain precautions to prevent rats passing from the ship to the shore or to other vessels moored alongside.

Ships coming from Cholera infected ports are supplied with a fresh supply of drinking water while in Sharpness Docks.

In some cases, if a ship was brought to in Kingroad, she would lose her tide and get neaped. This would cause an unnecessary delay of several days.

In these cases, to obviate this delay, the pilots are instructed, provided there is no case of sickness on board, to bring the ship on.

On arrival at Sharpness such ships would be detained in the tidal basin for inspection by the Gloucester Port Medical Officer of Health, but should he be unable to promptly inspect her, or in other emergency, the Council has arranged to employ DR. THOMAS MITCHELL, of Berkeley, to do so.

DR. MITCHELL has inspected seven vessels during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of sickness occurred on vessels arriving at Sharpness :—

Date	Name of Vessel	Nationality	Where from	General particulars
Jan. 22	S.S. Ruth	Norwegian	... Antwerp	... Fireman with V.D., discharged and advised to attend the Infirmary.
April 24	S.S. Lynghaug	Norwegian	... Hamburg	... Sailor with V.D., advised as to treatment.
July 20	S.S. Stalheim	Norwegian	... Christiania	... Master reported Fireman left at Bristol with ? skin disease.
July 27	S.S. Porthia	British	... Rosario	... Master reported sailor landed at St. Vincent, C.V.I., with Typhoid. All well on arrival.
Sept. 23	S.V. Henriette	German	... San Antonio (Chili)	Master reported sailor landed at Fal-mouth suffering from Phthisis.

During the year two small-pox contacts and one suspicious plague contact, from ships arriving at other ports were kept under observation.

Regulations under Sec. 125 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as to the removal to hospital of any person in a ship who is "infected with a dangerous infectious disorder," approved of by the Local Government Board, have been adopted by the Council.

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) ORDER, 1920.

These Regulations came into force on the 1st August, 1920, and give greater power to the Medical Officer of Health to prevent the importation and spread of disease, and for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings.

They also place a specific obligation on the Master of any ship to notify any case of infectious disease on board, and of any circumstances on board the ship likely to lead to infection or the spread of infectious disease, including the sanitary condition of the ship and the presence of dead rats or mortality or sickness among rats in the ship.

The following notices relating to these Regulations are given to the Masters or persons in charge of ships entering the Port :—

GLOUCESTER PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

THE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITIES (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1920, DATED JULY 14th, 1920.)

TO THE MASTER OR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF A SHIP.

Every Master or other person in charge of a ship arriving in the Port of Gloucester shall —

- (a) notify at once the Medical Officer of Health of any case of Infectious Disease on the ship, and of any circumstances on board the ship likely to lead to infection or the spread of infectious disease, including the sanitary condition of the ship and the presence of dead rats or mortality or sickness among rats in the ship ;
- (b) furnish the Sanitary Authority and the Medical Officer of Health with all such information as may be reasonably required by them for the purposes of these Regulations ;

- (c) comply with any directions or requirements of the Sanitary Authority or the Medical Officer of Health given or made in pursuance of these Regulations ;
- (d) give all such assistance to the Sanitary Authority or the Medical Officer of Health as may be reasonably required by them in the execution of their duties in pursuance of these Regulations ;
- (e) take or assist in taking such steps as, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, are reasonably necessary to prevent the spread of infection by any such person, and for the removal of conditions on the ship likely to convey infection, including the destruction of vermin, and the removal of conditions which harbour vermin.

Masters of vessels are requested to see :—

That all water closets are kept well flushed and clean, and sprinkled from time to time with some deodorant.

That all living spaces are kept in clean condition and not overcrowded.

That no bilge water, refuse or offensive material is allowed to accumulate or putrify on board.

That all drinking water receptacles are kept thoroughly clean and only water of good quality taken on board for drinking purposes.

That steps are taken to destroy rats and mice on board ship.

Notification of disease on board ship must be sent to the Medical Officer of Health, 9, New Inn Lane, Gloucester, or may be given by the Master on arrival to the Port Sanitary Inspector at Sharpness on the Health Certificate supplied to him.

A Master failing to carry out the requirements of these Regulations is liable to heavy penalties.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

Regulations relating to this disease were made by the Local Government Board on 12th July, 1916, enabling the Local Authority to make arrangements with the Managers of hospitals approved by the Board for the treatment of Venereal Disease.

A further letter was issued with respect to the treatment of sailors coming within the jurisdiction of Port Sanitary Authorities.

Leaflets giving information where treatment may be obtained, and also giving information on the dangers of Venereal Disease, are distributed to seamen arriving in the Port.

Arrangements have been made with the Gloucester Royal Infirmary for any sailors requiring treatment, to attend there on certain days.

HOSPITALS.

At Sharpness Docks, by the courtesy of the Dock Company, a hospital of one ward with five beds has been erected, at which a caretaker resides. Adjoining is a mortuary and small wash-house.

At Gloucester Docks, also by permission of the Company, there is a hospital for five beds in one ward, a mortuary, wash-house and watchman's hut at entrance gate. This hospital would be available should any special need arise, and if the case could not be treated in one of the City Isolation Hospitals. On the site there is room for erecting further temporary buildings or tents.

The steam disinfecting apparatus at the City Hospital would be available for the Port, if required.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The various foodstuffs imported are given in the preceding paragraph on Trade.

There is no cold storage accommodation either at Sharpness or at Gloucester Docks.

The Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act of 1907, gave powers to the Local Government Board to make regulations under the Public Health Act, 1896, to prevent danger arising to the public health from the importation, preparation, storage and distribution of articles of food or drink (other than drugs and water) intended for sale for human consumption.

Two sets of regulations were issued by the Board, one dealing with unsound food, and the other with foreign meat. An amending Regulation relating to foreign meat was issued on the 27th September, 1909, which came into force three days later.

The first set of Regulations is called the Public Health (first series Unsound Food) Regulations, which came into force on the 1st October, 1908. These provide that articles of food which are unsound, and which, as part of the cargo of a ship, are brought to a place in this country, either as a place of deposit or for transmission elsewhere in this country, shall be dealt with at the port of discharge.

The Medical Officer of Health is authorised by Art. IV. to examine articles of food which have been landed within the district, and if necessary to examine such articles before they are landed.

Power of taking samples is conferred by Art. VIII., and special examinations may be made at a laboratory. Power is also given under the same Article for the temporary detention of consignments pending the completion of the examination.

The Council, with the approval of the Local Government Board, have appointed Mr. Upham, Port Inspector of Nuisances, who holds a Certificate as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, as Assistant Officer under the General Orders of the 12th September, 1908.

RAT DESTRUCTION.

No special steps are taken at Sharpness or Gloucester with reference to the destruction of rats on ships from infected or suspected ports or otherwise.

No Rat Catcher has been appointed by the Port Sanitary Authority.

All ships from infected ports are inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector and the attention of the Master is specially drawn to the importance of rats and their destruction. He

(the Master) is interrogated with reference to the mortality amongst rats during the voyage and advised as to the setting of traps and the destruction of rats caught in the traps.

Notices are posted in the vessel to the following effect :—

Any Rats killed or found dead on board should not be picked up with the naked hands. They should be not left about or thrown overboard, but should at once be burnt in the furnace.

Also the following Notice is served on all Masters :—

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

To all Masters in charge of Ships.

Your attention is hereby called to the provisions of the above Act, whereby you are required to take all necessary steps for the destruction of rats and mice in your ship

You are further required to take, whilst in dock, all necessary steps—such as fixing and maintaining efficient rat guards to all mooring ropes and hawsers, and keeping all gangways raised during the night—for preventing the escape of rats and mice from the ship, and also for preventing the ship from becoming infested with rats or mice from the shore.

Masters failing to carry out these requirements are liable to penalties of £5 and £20.

The notices served under the Cholera, Yellow Fever, and Plague Regulations, 1909, Art. XIII. (1 and 2), Art. XIV. (1 and 2), require the Masters to take certain precautions to prevent rats passing from the ship to the shore or to other vessels moored alongside.

No Rat Catcher has been appointed by the Gloucester Health Authority. One of the Sanitary Inspectors acts as Rat Officer and regularly visits the Dock warehouses and wharves, and advises with regard to the destruction of rats and the prevention of rat infestation of the warehouses.

I am informed that no special methods of rat destruction are carried out in the warehouses, etc., of the Port of Sharpness.

FORM B (1923).

RATS DESTROYED IN 1923.

No information available.

FORM C (1923).

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE.

Particulars relating to Vessels "Infected" or "Suspected," or from Infected Ports.

Name of Vessel. 1.	Date of Arrival. 2.	Whether infected, or from an infected Port? 3.	Methods of Rat Destruction employed.			Number of Rats killed. 7.	Whether a certificate of Deratisation was issued? 8.	Remarks. 9.
			Fumigation by Sulphur Dioxide. 4.	Fumigation by Hydro- cyanic Acid. 5.	Trapping, poisoning, etc. 6.			
S.S. Gerd ...	Feb. 3	From an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	Nil.	No.	No record of recent fumigation.
S.S. Luchana ...	April 20	Called at an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	3	No.	No record of recent fumigation.
S.S. Tremayne ...	June 28	Called at an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	Nil.	No.	Fumigated at Glasgow twelve months ago.
S.S. Trevince ...	July 26	Called at an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	Nil.	No.	No record of recent fumigation.
S.S. Melderskin ...	Sept. 27	Called at an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	Nil.	No.	No record of recent fumigation.
S.S. Admiral Hamilton	Oct. 8	Called at an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	Nil.	No.	Fumigated at Braila, 30 Aug, 1923.
S.S. Hazelside ...	Dec. 24	From an infected Port	—	—	Trapping	Nil.	No.	Fumigated at Penarth seven months ago.

FORM D (1923).

VESSELS (OTHER THAN THOSE DEALT WITH IN FORM C), SUBJECTED TO
MEASURES OF RAT DESTRUCTION.

Number of Vessels fumigated by SO ₂ 1.	Number of Rats killed. 2.	Number of Vessels fumigated by H.C.N. 3.	Number of Rats killed. 4.	Number of Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, etc., were employed. 5.	Number of Rats killed. 6.	Number of Fumigation Certificates issued on Form "Port 10." 7.	Number of other certificates issued. 8.	Remarks. 9.
<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	S.V. Henriette ... S.S. Taption ...	11 9	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF SHIPS

Under the Public Health Acts and the General Orders issued by the Ministry of Health.

During the year, 499 ships were inspected, 400 of which were British and 99 were foreign ships; and of the 499 ships inspected, 53, or 10·6 per cent. of the whole, were found to have insanitary defects on board.

123 re-visits were made to enforce compliance with notices, and to make enquiries as to health of crews on vessels from "Infected Ports," and also to vessels from Plague infected ports, to see that the rat precautions were being properly carried out.

The nuisances and defects dealt with were :—

Foul or dirty berths or living spaces	...	...	...	36
Defective or foul water closets	...	...	...	8
Living spaces with defective ventilation	...	...	...	1
Leakages into living spaces	...	...	...	7
Defective or dirty receptacles for water supply	...	...	...	1
Various other defects	...	...	...	9
				<hr/> 62 <hr/>

SHIPS INSPECTED COMING "FOREIGN."

	No. Inspected	No. Defects	No. Preliminary Notices	No. Statutory	Complied with whilst in Dock
Steamships	147	31	28	—	23
Sailing	6	2	1	—	1

SHIPS INSPECTED COMING "COASTWISE."

Steamships	126	12	9	—	7
Sailing	220	17	15	—	12

NUMBER OF SHIPS INSPECTED AT SHARPNESS AND GLOUCESTER

	From "Foreign"	"Coastwise"	Total
Sharpness	100	66	166
Gloucester	53	280	333

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF SHIPS DEALT WITH.

	No. of Ships	No. having defects
Belgian	1	—
British	400	41
Danish	21	4

				No. of Ships			No. having defects	
Dutch	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
Finnish	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	—
French	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	—
German	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	—
Greek	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	2
Italian	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
Norwegian	...	...	...	43	...	...	...	3
Rumanian	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	—
Spanish	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	—
Swedish	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	1
				499				53

PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) ACT, 1907.

77 cargoes or part cargoes of food stuffs were inspected, and it was only found necessary to deal with the following :—

				...	Tons	cwt.	lbs.
Maize	...	...	...	...	14	10	—
Fruit Pulp	...	...	...	...			14
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...			2
Pineapple	...	...	...	...			12½

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.

822 inspections of canal boats have been made in 1923 ; 40 boats being found on which infringements were detected.

Owing to an outbreak of Smallpox in the City all Canal Boats and their occupants leaving the City between June 9th and September 8th were inspected, but in no case was it found necessary to detain any boat or occupant.

The number of infringements discovered and dealt with was 53.

<i>a</i>	Registration	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>b</i>	Notification of change of Master	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>c</i>	{ Masters without Certificates		...	...	...	...	...	2
	{ Certificates not identifying Owner with the Boat		...	...	...	...	...	4
<i>d</i>	Marking	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
<i>e</i>	Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>f</i>	Separation of the Sexes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
<i>g</i>	Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

<i>h</i>	Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>i</i>	Painting	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
<i>j</i>	Provision of Water Cask	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>k</i>	Removal of bilge water	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>l</i>	Notification of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>m</i>	Admittance of Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>n</i>	Cabins damp and leaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

No legal proceedings have been instituted in connection with the Canal Boats Acts during 1923.

All infringements discovered have been dealt with by means of the usual complaint notes and by verbal notices to the owners and masters.

Nine complaint notes from other Authorities have been attended to.

No case of Infectious Disease on any of the Canal Boats whilst at Gloucester has been reported, but a case of Smallpox was notified during March at a house in the City, and it was found to be a man who had left his boat up-country and returned home by train. A communication was sent to the Canal Boat Authority where the boat was, when the man left it, and the boat was traced and stopped and dealt with at Worcester.

No boat has been detained for the purpose of cleansing or disinfection.

Total number of Boats on Register December 31st, 1923 :—

(a)	Ordinary Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	130
	Motor propelled Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	2
	Steam	„	„	...	...	1
						<hr/> 133
(b)	Number of Boats that cannot be traced	...	..	...	...	0
	Boats no longer in use	...	...	...	...	3

Number of Boats registered during 1923 :—

Motor propelled Boats	...	...	...	...	—
Other Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	3
Boats registered owing to structural alterations	...	...	...	...	—

